

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 8, 2003.

Claims 1-9 are objected to because of informalities.

Applicant amended claims 1-4 as requested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. Claims 5-9 depend from claim 1. Therefore, Applicant believes that the objections to claims 1-9 have been overcome and respectfully requests removal of the objections.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Therefore, Applicant believes that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome and respectfully requests removal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Itoya* (U.S. 5,972,547) in view of *Meripol* (U.S. 3,248,135).

The Examiner states that "*Itoya* fails to teach that the external threaded surface of the inner adapter sleeve and the communicating internal threaded surface of the adapter and connector sleeve are conical." However, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a conical threaded inner surface on a locking member (outer sleeve) disclosed in *Itoya* and a mating conical threaded external surface on a packing member (inner sleeve) disclosed in *Itoya*. Specifically, *Itoya* teaches at column 1 lines 13-14, 19-20, and 23-24 that the packing member compresses against the circumference of a pipe for complete sealing and locking of a joint. As illustrated by claims 1 and 4 of *Itoya*, at column 4, lines 42-47 and 56-57, the packing member provides a seal in the joint that prevents fluid leakage from the pipe even when the packing member includes a longitudinal slot that apparently completely compresses. Therefore, a modification in view of *Meripol* to provide a threaded conical external surface to the packing member destroys the sealing purpose disclosed in *Itoya* since threads along the external surface of the packing member provide a helical path for

fluid flow that remains regardless of the tightness of the threaded connection. *Itoya* in view of *Meripol* does not teach, show, or suggest an assembly for connecting to an end of a tubular that includes an inner sleeve having a tapered threaded outer surface, a coupling member having a tapered threaded inner surface that cooperatively engages the outer surface of the inner sleeve, and a connecting member having a tapered threaded end portion for cooperatively engaging the inner surface of the coupling member and a connector portion for coupling to a downhole tool as recited in claim 1 and new claim 10. Since claims 3, 5-7, and 9 depend from claim 1, Applicant believes that claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and new claim 10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same.

Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection in the office action.

As discussed above, claim 4 has been amended to overcome the objection. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 4 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same.

Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection in claim 1 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

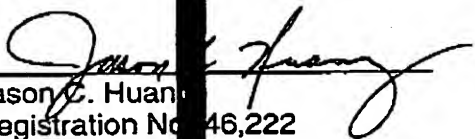
Applicant amended claim 1 to overcome the objection as discussed above. Claims 2 and 8 depend from claim 1. Based on Applicant's traversal of the rejection of claim 1, Applicant believes that claims 2 and 8 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the method or process of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed

discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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